Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the pending claims as set forth in the following Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   **(currently amended)**   An image verification apparatus comprising:

a verification unit which verifies whether a digital image included in an image file has been altered; and

a control unit which changes a display form of additional information included in the image file if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered,

wherein said control unit <u>notifies a user that the digital image has been altered, by</u> <u>avoiding</u> ~~avoids displaying~~ the additional information <u>from being displayed,</u> if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered, and

wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

2.   **(canceled).**

3.   **(previously presented)**   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit displays information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered.

4.   **(previously presented)**   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

5.   (previously presented)   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

6.   (previously presented)   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a common key of common key cryptography.

7.   (previously presented)   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a public key of public key cryptography.

8.   (currently amended)   A method of displaying additional information included in an image file, the method comprising the steps of:

        verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered;

        changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and

        notifying a user that the digital image has been altered, by avoiding ~~displaying~~ the additional information from being displayed, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

        wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

9.   (canceled).

10.   (previously presented)   The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is

verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

11.   **(previously presented)**   The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional

information includes information relating to the image file.

12.   **(previously presented)**   The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional

information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

13.   **(previously presented)**   The method according to claim 8, wherein a common key of

common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital

image has been altered.

14.   **(previously presented)**   The method according to claim 8, wherein a public key of

public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image

has been altered.

15-18. (canceled).

19.   **(previously presented)**   The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.

20.   **(previously presented)**   The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional

information does not include a file name of the image file.

21.   **(currently amended)**   A computer-readable medium that stores a program causing a computer to perform a method of displaying additional information included in an image file, the method comprising the steps of:

verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered;

changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and

notifying a user that the digital image has been altered, by avoiding displaying the additional information from being displayed if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

22.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, the method further comprising the step of:

displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

23.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

24.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

25.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a common key of common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

26.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a public key of public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

27.   **(previously presented)**   The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.